

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. B-4387

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic 211 West Saratoga Street

and/or common Hosiery World

**2. Location**

street & number 211 W. Saratoga Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Emil and Ellen Rosenbaum

street & number 211 W. Saratoga Street

city, town Baltimore ☐ telephone no. MD 21201

state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse SEB256

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 liber 575

city, town Baltimore ☐ state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town ☐ state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4387

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1875 shed-roofed commercial building faces north on W. Saratoga Street and abuts two partywall buildings. The one-bay, three-story building is part of a large brick commercial block. This section, defined by seams in the brick work and fenestration, has a street frontage of 15' and a depth of 100'. The one-bay design is an alteration to the original fabric; the building would have been two or three bays wide.

The first story has been altered circa 1940-1950. It is remodelled into an angled, glazed wall with two glass doors to the east and a large plate glass display window to the west. The wall surface at the sides and top is covered with fluted aluminum siding. A roll-down theft guard is suspended from the second story.

The second and third stories are covered with circa 1960s formstone veneer. The second story contains a central tripartite window. Narrow 1/1 sash sidelights flank a double-width central plate. A row of four hinged transoms runs above the windows. The lintel has a profile of fillet, ogee, two fillets, and back band. Jig-sawn corner blocks are placed underneath the extended lintel.

The third story has a tripartite window of three joined 1/1 sash windows. The sill and lintel are cast in formstone; the lintel has a splayed jack arch pattern.

The projecting cornice has a profile of fillet, ogee, bead, and back band. There are no brackets under the soffit. A band of tin siding has been laid over the raised molding/dentil course. This is edged with a row of raised molding.

The first (east) recessed door leads to the stair hall serving the upstairs. The stair hall has pressed tin wainscotting. The second (west) door is angled and opens into the first-story commercial space. The interior is finished with wallboard and an acoustic tile ceiling.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4387

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or		
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is a remodelled example of speculative commercial block construction along Saratoga Street during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It is part of a series of partywall structures with similar cornices and massing, but the units are separated by a brick seam indicating separate stages of construction, and there are separate entrances and separate alterations to each of the row buildings.

The building's style and massing are representative of the late nineteenth-century rowhouses and partywall structures on the block. Few of the original details remain. Only the cornice may be original, although its simplicity in contrast to the scalloped cornices on either side suggest that this too may be a later alteration.

The presence of a mixed residential-commercial buildings indicates the mixed character of this Baltimore neighborhood in the nineteenth century. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."<sup>1</sup> This building, however, shows a new experimental aesthetic and planning device at work. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."<sup>2</sup> In this case, the commercial solution was to retain the basic shop-house form but create a commercial second-story reading. The tripartite window in the second story, complete with its row of

<sup>1</sup> Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

<sup>2</sup> Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4387

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historian

organization CHAP, Room 1037

date December 22, 1991

street & number 417 E. Fayette Street

telephone 301-396-4866

city or town Baltimore

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600



B-4387

211 West Saratoga Street

Baltimore, MD

Section 8 Significance

8.1

transoms, millwork lintel and corner brackets, is an early Victorian experiment in commercial architecture. The large expanse of framed plate glass and row of transoms invoked the nineteenth-century street-level shopfront and could be used as display windows for the second-story merchant's wares. While the overall shell of the building retains the previous nineteenth-century shop-house form, the tripartite window shows an attempt to make a commercial statement from a residential building type. Before there was a clear definition of a commercial building type there was this early, experimental form. The presence of two entrances indicates that the building was constructed to hold more than one tenant, another sign that the old shop-house idea had passed. The third story, however, could have still been used as dwelling quarters.

The twentieth-century alterations to the facade include the circa 1940s shopfront. The angled facade running towards a recessed entrance was popular in the World War II period: the recessed entrance permitted additional display areas along the vestibule wall and the slant of the facade wall "drew" the sidewalk traffic in. The remodelling of the facade during this period can be taken as a sign of economic prosperity on the block. The formstone veneer is an example of urban architectural renewal--Baltimore 1960s style.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Urban/Industrial Dominance, 1870-1930  
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

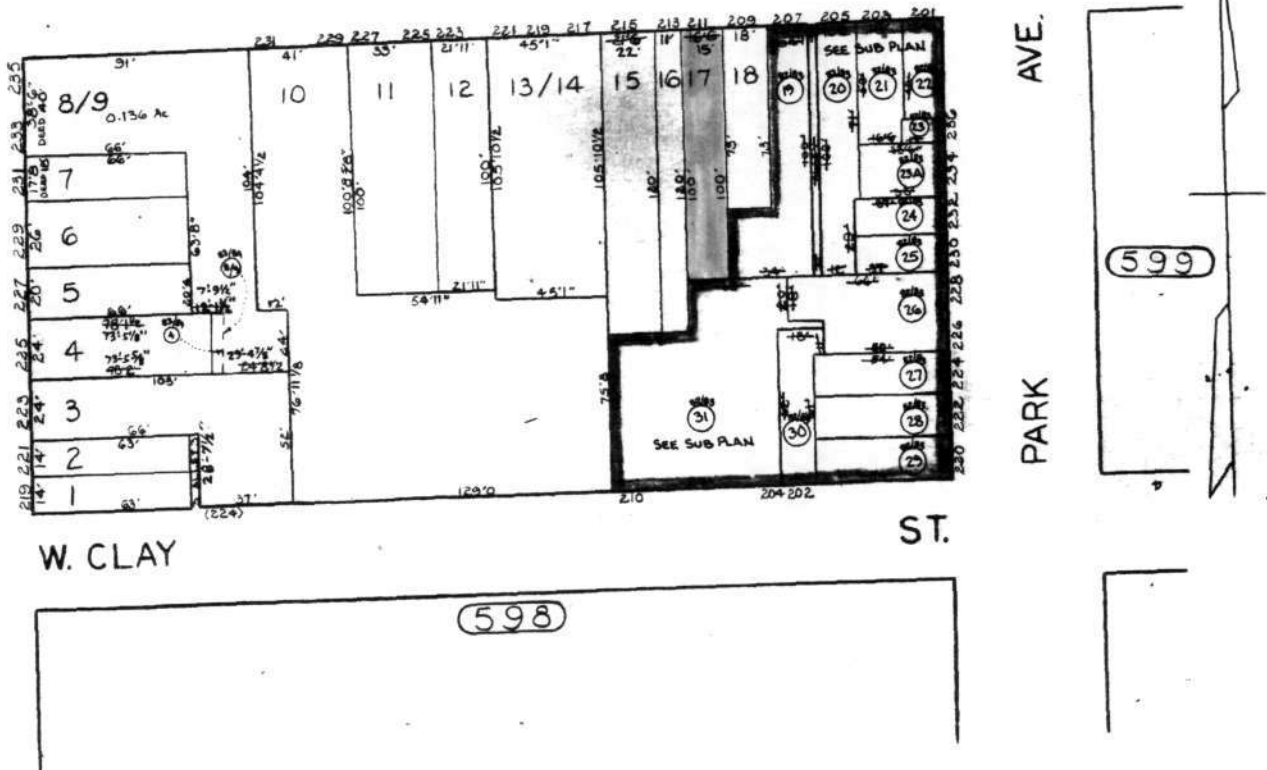
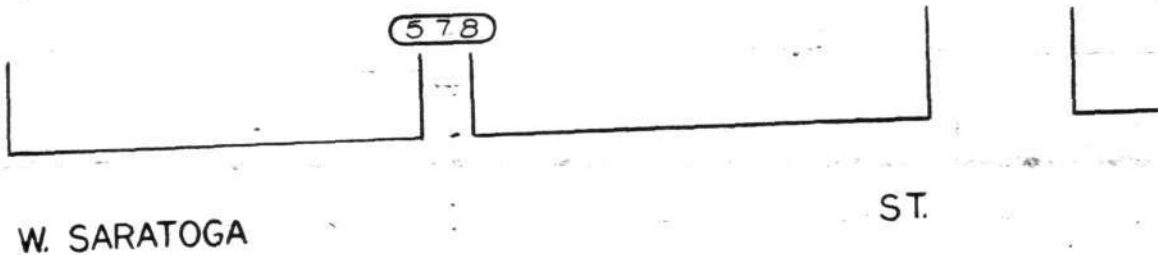
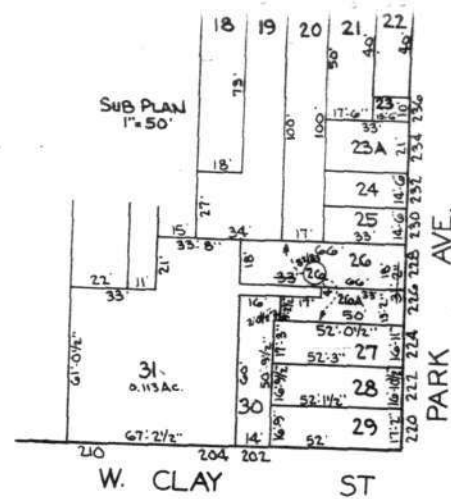
Resource Type:  
Building

Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:

Commercial

Known Design Source:  
None



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

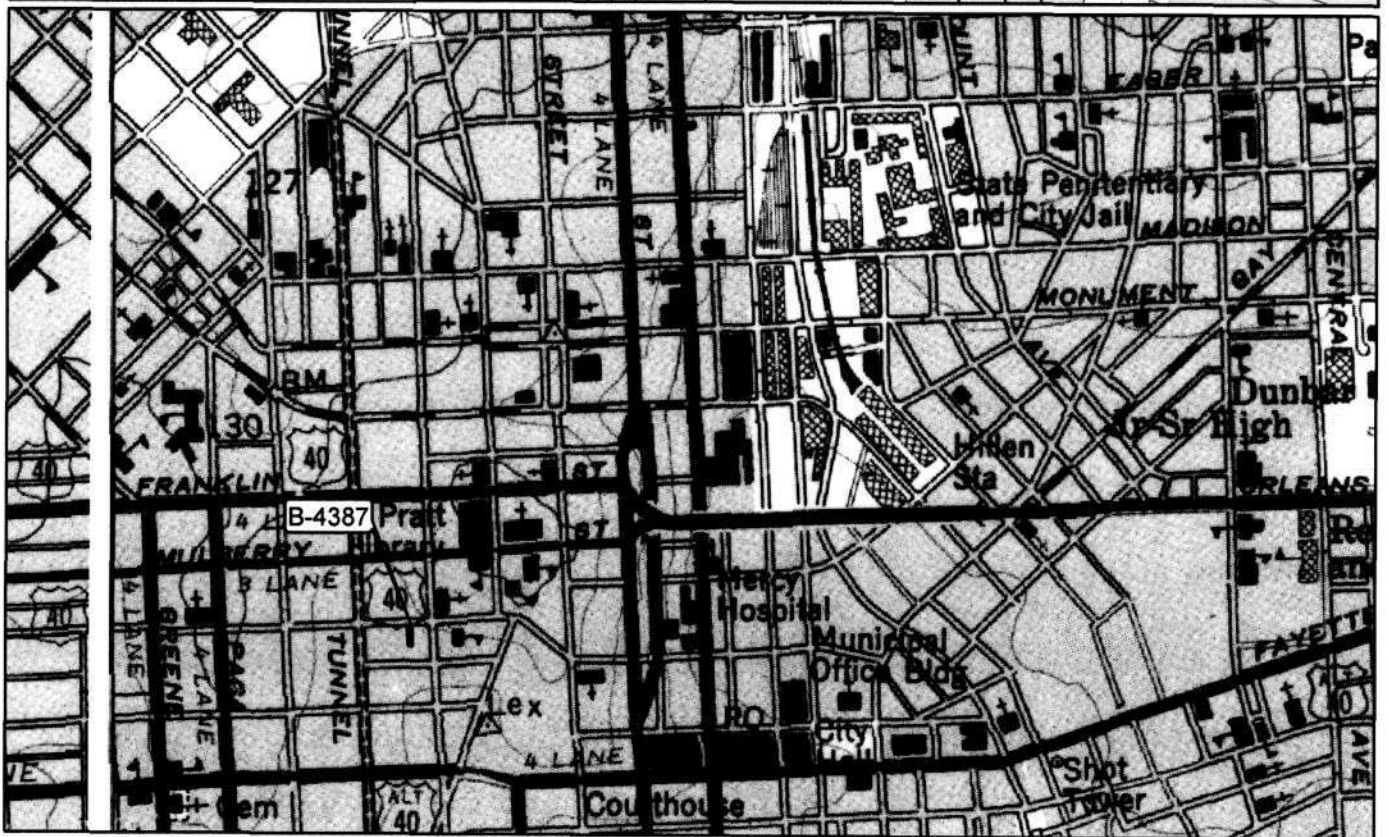
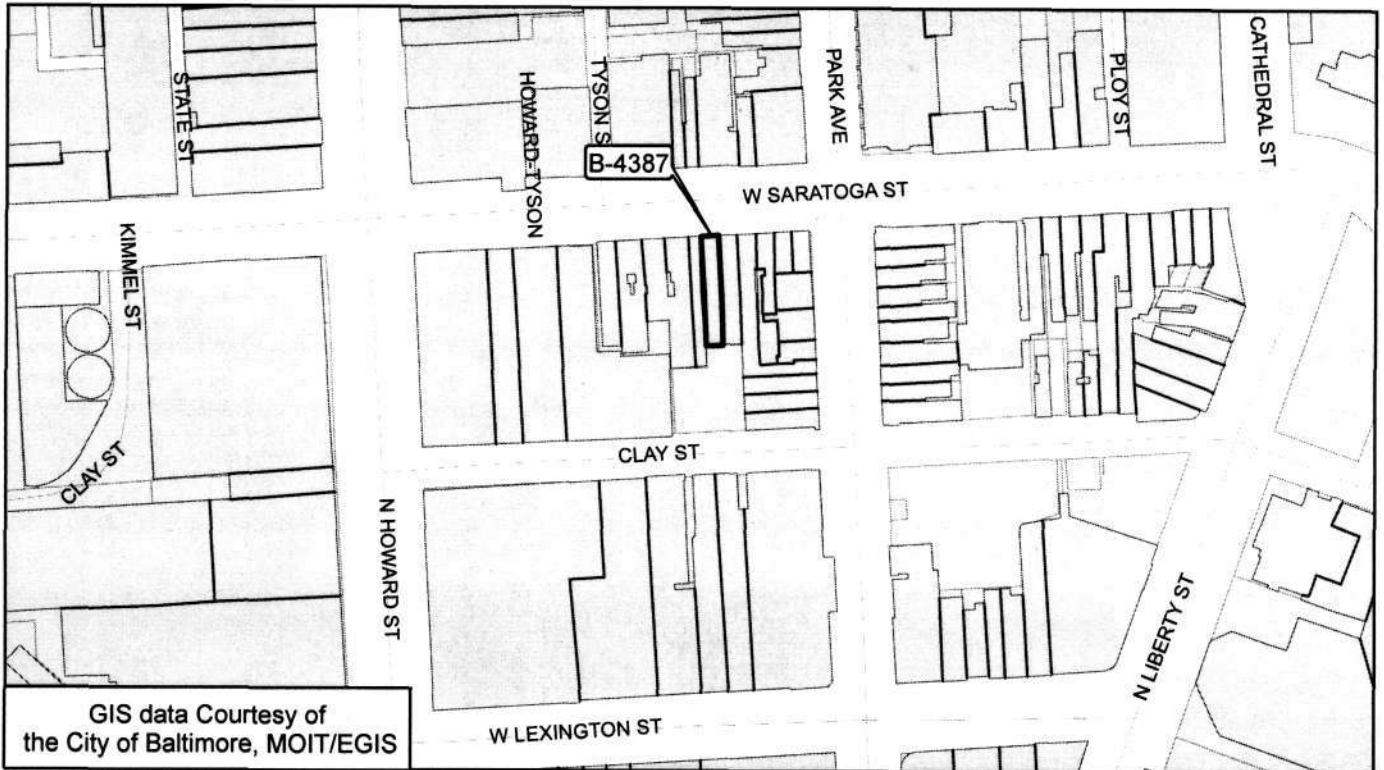
WARD 4 SECTION 10  
BLOCK 597

SCALE 1" = 50' DATE NOV. 1966

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

B-4387  
Hosiery World  
211 W. Saratoga Street  
Block 0597, Lot 017  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-4387

211 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, north elevation

1/1